and, Central Government only provides financial and technical assistance to support such efforts.

As per the Supreme Court's order dated 20.11.2000 no new zoo. Zoo in the country shall be set up without clearance from Central Zoo Authority and approval of the Supreme Court, Central Zoo Authority has approved one proposal for setting up of a zoo at Dizee World in Tamil Nadu and directed the concerned to obtain the permission of the Supreme Court.There is no proposal to increase the number of lion safaries during 2003-04.

The Steering Committee of Project Tiger has "in principal' approved inclusion of 8 protected areas under Project Tiger for inclusion in due course. Keeping in view the present availability of funds no increase is proposed to be made in 2003-04.

For effective conservation of elephant, 25 Elephant Reserves have been identified by the Central Government in the country. Out of this 23 have been approved by Central Government and 14 have already been notified by respective State Governments. The action to notify the balance approved Reserves lies at the level of State Governments.

Review of Yamuna Action Plan by I IT, Roorkee

1764. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) was reviewed by I IT, Roorkee recently; and

(b) if so, what are its findings and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Yamuna Action Plan was reviewed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee during the year 2002. The conclusions and recommendations of the review are given in the Statement. *{See* below). The recommendations of the review have been noted and implementing agencies have been informed to take necessary corrective actions wherever needed to remove the bottlenecks.

Statement

Performance Review of Yamuna Action Plan

General Conclusions

(1) On the basis of the assessment of the works in the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) towns it is concluded that the YAP is a well-conceived and implemented plan which has served the purpose of improving the water bodies receiving the wastewaters and the general environment of the towns. The following main conclusions have been drawn:—

(a) Generally all the drains carrying wast waters and polluting the river Yumana have been covered but in some towns some drains have been left out or only partly intercepted and some new point sources of pollution have arisen. However, despite the Extended Phase there are still drains in some towns, which remain uncovered. In this connection, by way of illustration, the towns of Muzaffarnagar, Yamunanagar, Agra, Faridabad can be mentiond.

(b) STPs are generally performing well but they are under-loaded.

(c) Power cuts are frequent and sometimes the Diesel Generator sets are not able to cope with the failure.

(d) Water quality testing facilities are generally available.

(e) Sludge is being used as compost in many places and the farmers are themselves picking it up.

(f) Generally, the Community Toilet Complexes are being managed well. However, in some cases, the local population is not utilising the facilities of Community Toilets mainly because of levy of high user charges. A system of monthly passes for families may be considered on charges decided in consultation with the community. Non-Governmental Ogranisations (NGO) may also be invited to motivate the local population.

(g) The afforestation programme, though small, is generally successful.

(h) The bathing ghats are popular and are being used.

(i) The acceptability of improved wood-based crematoria is poor except at Mathura.

(j) There is no planned utilisation of the nutrient rich treated effluent.

(k) Sewer cleaning is in general *ad hoc* and there is no schedule. No data could be made available from local hodies/Nigam about the extent of utilisation of sewer cleaning machines.

(I) The State agencies have been given the responsibility of operation and maintenance. However, in UP adequate funds are not provided to the UP Jal Nigam for this purpose.

(m) The enforcement of environmental standards on industry is the responsibility of the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB). In most cases the agencies responsible for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of assets created under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) are not aware of the measures taken by SPCB in this regard.

(n) Some of the Micro/Mini Sewage Treatment Plants have not stabilised. Their performance, therefore, can not be evaluated in Delhi. Where the data has been collected, it is inadequate to comment on their performance.

(o) The demonstration plants tor disinfection have been set up recently, enough time has not passed and it is premature to draw any conclusions.

General Recommendations

(a) The discharges not attended under Phase I or those arising after the YAP works had been approved need to be covered in the future.

(b) Regarding cleaning of sewers, the concerned authorities should have the equipment and follow the methodology prescribed under the CPHEEO Manual on Sewerage.

(c) Under Phase II of Yamuna Action Plan inclusion of solid waste management should also be considered.

(d) The problems related to supply of power need to be resolved by the State Government.

(e) Adequate funds need to be provided to UP Jal Nigam for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) till the local bodies are in a position to take over and maintain them. This needs urgent attention.

(f) Upfiow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB) is a new technology. Manuals for operation and maintenance of such plants, and indeed of each component of the entire system consisting if interception & diversion, pumping stations and sewage treatment plants (STP), need to be prepared for guidance of maintenance staff and contractor.

(g) Testing facilities are generally available but in Mathura, Vrindavan and Etawah they have not been provided. However, in a majority of laboratories trained technical staff is not available. Testing should either be given out on contract or a regular training programme or sampling and analysis be initiated in an academic/scientific institution to train staff who could subsequently do the analysis on a regular basis.

(h) The polishing pond should have a detention period of two days so that the quality of effluent can improve further, algal cells are conserved and pisciculture/aquaculture can be promoted.

(i) The treated effluent is being discharged in to nearby drains. The Ministry of Environment & Forests may consider encouraging the State Governments to prepare and construct suitable irrigation schemes.

G) In the UASB sewage treatment plants, the gas should be utilised for running the STPs and the pumps.

(k) The river water quality both upstream and downstream of the town should be monitored as in Ganga Action Plan towns. Bio-monitoring should also be added.

(I) The administrative and financial sustainability of YAP works should be studied and suitable measures taken.

Public Participation and Public Awareness

Public Participation and Public Awareness activities under YAP have not been very effective due to various factors. One of the major factors for low visibility is the fact that the scale of the activities is low and it is

essential that the scale be substantially increased to increase visibility. It can be said in the overall assessment that the PA/PP programme was not very effective due to various reasons. Some of them are as under:

(a) The allocations of funds to the non-core activities (low cost sanitation, crematoria, river front development) in the YAP is very small compared to the core activities (sewage treatment plant, interception & diversion). In order to have a visibility and effectiveness an optimal investment in non-core activities is essential as it is the non-core activity with which normally the general public is associated with and can actively participate.

(b) The means used to reach out to the public are not very effective. It is suggested that small films are made to make the people aware and publications in local languages should be made in local newspapers, to reach the masses.

(c) For continued success of the YAP, it is essential that project is made self-sustaining in the long run. This can happen only when the public is willing to share the cost of keeping Yamuna clean with greater public awareness and participation.

TBGRI as National Institute

1765. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvanantapuram, Kerala for elevating the TBGRI into a National Institute, as the garden is unique in its setup as well as rich in flora of the tropics spread in a 300 acre natural forest land; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests received a proposal for elevation of Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI) as National Institute. The Ministry, however, accords the status of National Centre of Excellence to institutions of repute in the country working in the field of ecology and